

## **Amendments to the Specification**

Please delete the paragraphs at page 18, lines 3-16 and replace them with the following new paragraph:

-- Apparatus for providing optical radiation includes a pump source and at least one first amplifying waveguide. The first amplifying waveguide emits optical radiation in excess of 1400nm when pumped by the pump source. In one embodiment, the pump source can include a plurality of laser diodes and a plurality of second amplifying waveguides. In this arrangement the first amplifying waveguide is pumped by the second amplifying waveguides, the second amplifying waveguides are pumped by the laser diodes, and the second amplifying waveguides are configured to improve the beam quality of radiation emitted by the laser diodes.--

(End of amendments to the specification.)

(Continued on next page.)